

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JUNE 17, 2003

In May of 2003, representatives from the Federal Office of Administration for Children and Families ("ACF") visited the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department ("LA CSSD"). During their visit, the ACF representatives discovered that instead of opening all applications for child support services, only those applications believed to result in successful child support collections were being opened.

The implementation of this informal policy, which was applied to both assisted and non-assisted applications, was subsequently confirmed by a Deputy Director of LA CSSD. Moreover, LA CSSD indicated that assisted applications were likely to be lowest in priority based on the quality of information received. Among the negative impacts resulting from this practice is the issue of compliance with federal regulations and the potential of LA CSSD failing its FFY 2003 self-assessment review.

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The ACF office in Washington, D.C. has been informed of the case-opening practices at LA CSSD and has been assured that the California Department of Child Support Services' ("DCSS") oversight of the LA CSSD will be monitored. In accordance with federal directives and regulations, DCSS directed the LA CSSD to: 1) discontinue the informal case opening policy; 2) provide DCSS with accurate number of backlogged applications; and, 3) a timeline to clear the backlog.

LA CSSD provided a proposed timeline; however, it was not approved by DCSS. Consequently, DCSS has required the LA CSSD to clear the backlog of some 14,000 to 16,000 applications by July 18, 2003.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department to report at its June 24, 2003 meeting on its informal case opening policy. The report shall further include the:

1. Manner in which he plans to meet the California Department of Child Support Services' deadline of July 18, 2003 to clear the backlog;
2. Impact on employees and Divisions as other employees are reassigned to assist in clearing the backlog;
3. Corrective action measures taken to assure that similar "informal policies" are not implemented which can jeopardize compliance with federal and state regulations; and,
4. Resulting consequences to the LA CSSD by the federal and state government.

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MDA:ap

S/motions/Child Support Federal Compliance 6-17-03

